(c) whether Government are considering to legislate against the use of manual labour of this sort by deterrent punishment to contractor since carrying heavy loads like large stones etc. are producing a sub-human species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The construction workers, which include women workers, are exposed to risks. As the workers are usually migrant, socially backward and illiterate, they have low bargaining power and can be exploited by the employers/contractors. To safeguard the interests of these workers, the Government have enacted two legislations namely Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and Other Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996.

The Acts provide for certain welfare measures and details of health and safety measures to be adopted while carrying out the construction activities which, *inter-alia*, include safety measures to be adopted while using machines and other equipments and also specify different maximum weight limits to be lifted by hand or carried over head or over his/her back or shoulders by adult-man, adult-woman, adolescent-male and adolescent-female.

Number of Agricultural Workers

1349. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of agricultural workers and the minimum wages earned by them, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): A statement is enclosed (*See* below):

Statement

The number of agricultural workers and the minimum wages earned by them, State-wise.

S. No.	States/U.Ts.	No. of Landless Agricultural Labourers (As per 1991 Census)	Minimum wages fixed by State Governments as on 1.6.2000
	INDIA (excluding J & K)	74,597,744	—
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,625,159	Rs. 30 to Rs. 36.50 p.d. (According to zones)

S. No.	States/U.Ts.	No. of Landless Agricultural Labourers (As per 1991 Census)	Minimum wages fixed by State Governments as on 1.6.2000
2.	Assam	844,964	Rs. 45.00 p.d. without food, shelter and clothing; Rs. 38.60 p.d. plus food, shelter and clothing
3.	Bihar	9,512,892	Rs. 49.11 p.d.
4.	Gujarat	3,230,547	Rs. 34.00 p.d.
5.	Haryana	896,782	Rs. 74.30 p.d. without meals
6.	Himachal Pradesh	58,668	Rs. 26.00 p.d. Rs. 45.75 p.d.
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	Rs. 30.00 p.d.
8.	Karnataka	4,999,959	Rs. 26.00 p.d.
9.	Kerala	2,120,452	Rs. 30.00 p.d. for light work Rs. 40.20 p.d. for hard work
10.	Madhya Pradesh	5,863,029	Rs. 49.46 p.d.*
11.	Maharashtra	8,313,223	Rs. 39.00 to Rs. 41.00 p.d. (According to zones)
12.	Manipur	47,350	Rs. 55.00 p.d.* for Hill areas Rs. 52.00 p.d. for other than hill areas
13.	Meghalaya	89,492	Rs. 50.00 p.d.
14.	Nagaland	7,233	Rs. 40.00 p.d.
15.	Orissa	2,976,750	Rs. 42.50 p.d.*
16.	Punjab	1,452,828	Rs. 69.10 p.d.
17.	Rajasthan	1,391,670	Rs. 60.00 p.d.
18.	Sikkim	12,851	The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 yet to be extended
19.	Tamil Nadu	7,896,295	Rs. 54.00 p.d.
20.	Tripura	187,538	Rs. 40.00 p.d.

S. No.	States/U.Ts.	No. of Landless Agricultural Labourers (As per 1991 Census)	Minimum wages fixed by State Governments as on 1.6.2000
21.	Uttar Pradesh	7,833,258	Rs. 47.00 to Rs. 49.00 p.d.
22.	West Bengal	5,055,478	Rs. 58.90 p.d.* (with meals) Rs. 62.10 p.d. (without meals)
23.	A & N Islands	4,989	Rs. 50.00 p.d. (Andaman) Rs. 53.00 p.d. (Nicobar)
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	20,054	Rs. 35.60 to Rs. 37.60 p.d. (According to areas)
25.	Chandigarh	1,642	Rs. 71.93 p.d.
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6,233	Rs. 60.00 p.d.
27.	Delhi	25,195	Rs. 93.00 p.d.*
28.	Goa	35,284	Rs. 58.00 p.d.
29.	Daman & Diu	1,199	Rs. 35.00 p.d.
30.	Lakshadweep	—	Rs. 45.00 p.d.
31.	Mizoram	9,527	Rs. 70.00 p.d.
32.	Pondicherry	77,203	Rs. 20.00 to Rs. 22.00 **(Pondicherry region)** Rs. 30.00 p.d. for light work Rs. 40.20 p.d. for hard work **(Mahe Region)** Rs. 19.25 to Rs. 26.25 p.d. **(Yanam Region)** Rs. 20.00 to Rs. 22.00 p.d. **(Karaikal Region)**
Central Sphere		—	Rs. 77.12 to Rs. 84.12* (As on 1.4.99)

Note: 1. The *minimum* wages also include the variable dearness allowance wherever provided.

2. *Indicates the provisions of variable dearness allowance with the minimum rates of wage.

3. p.d. indicates per day.